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THE 2 2

FAMOUS AND MEMORABLE

HISTORY

OF

YCHEVY-CHACE

BY THE

RIVER TWEED in SCOTLAND

TOGETHER WITH

The fatal BATTLE between Lord PIERCY
of Northumberland, and his fifteen hun-
dred Archers, and the Earl of DOUGLAS,
with twenty hundred Scots; in which
both these Earls, and most of their Men
were slain.



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MEMORABLE
HISTORICAL
THE
HISTORY



OF THE
HUNTING ON CHEVY-CHACE.

CHAP. I.

How Piercies came by their Name; and
to be Earls of Northumberland; and
of the Vow which the Earl in the reign
of Henry II. made of Hunting three
Days on Chevy-Chace.

THE noble families of the Piercies,
Earls of Northumberland, have al-
way had a high esteem amongst all the
English nobility, and, for their valour,
famed throughout the world. We might
give you a large account of the descent of

that noble Earl, who is to be a chief part
of the subject of the following story. His-
tory records him for the fortunate valour
of a courteous knight, who killed the
King of the Scots, by running his spear



into his eye, as he was besieging Rox-
burgh castle. Upon which his name was
changed, and that of Piercy given, toge-
ther with the Earldom of Northumber-
land, and this of whom I now speak was
his grandson and heir. But to come nearer
to the purpose; the noble Earl of Nor-
thumberland taking his progress, attended
with fifteen hundred stout archers, passed
on to the marches of Scotland, and wish-
ing for some venison, he was informed
that in a forest beyond the Tweed, call-
ed Chevy-Chace, belonging to Earl Dou-

Glas, a Scotch nobleman, there was such a sort of it, that the like was in no part of the kingdom; and provision being scarce on the English side, made his men so forward, that they desired they might go out in parties, and bring away as much as they could undiscovered; but he despising a way that looked like deer stealing, told them, If their courage was but sufficient to venture for it fairly, himself would go with them; and so hunting it down at a fair game, it should be brought off with honour, as a lawful prize taken in an enemy's country.

To this motion of the earl's they soon gave consent. — And so the earl made a vow, that for three days he would take his pleasure in hunting on Chevy Chace. And so sending for dogs and toils, early on a Midsummer morning they passed the Tweed, and were by a guide directed to the place. — So to the game they went. — The dogs were put in to rouse the harts, the horns sounded, and the huntmen's shouts, with the dog's cries, made a pleasant noise. But the villagers all thinking it had been the sound of war on some sudden invasion, were so terrified, that some

hide themselves, while others of them fled from their habitations, and alarmed the country.

CHAP. II.

Of their killing many Deer; and receiving at Supper-time a threatening Message from Douglas, commanding them to depart.

THE harts and roes, though swift as the wind, could not out-strip the English arrows, our archers laying hundreds of them dead, so that they had got vast store of venison, as made them doubt how to carry it off.—Yet having refreshed themselves, they found the store lessened.

But while the earl was at supper, on a table made upon the grass, and sitting on turfs, as he was about to give orders to his huntsmen to pursue the same sport the next morning, in came a messenger in a scarlet livery. On which the earl demanded from what place he came, and

what was his business? to which he thus most haughtily replied :

Sir, whatever you are, my master, the noble earl Douglas, chief ranger to the king of Scotland, to whom all these parks and chaces belong, hearing you have presumed to enter them, and destroy his deer, by me tells you, that if you do not suddenly depart, your lives shall pay for the injuries you have done, before to-morrow noon.

This being said, he was about to depart ; but earl Piercy taking him by the sleeve, said, It is but convenient that you should carry back an answer to your great Lord.—Tell him my name is Piercy, a name at which all Scotland has trembled. Tell him I have proposed to take my pleasure in these forests and chaces two days longer, and if he is valiant let him interrupt my sport at the hazard of his life.

Upon this the messenger departed to the Scotch earl, and related what was given him in charge by earl Piercy.—At which the Scotchman stormed and fretted, walking up and down in a great fury.

He enquired the number of the English, but the messenger could not give him a certain account, only guessed there might be about ten or twelve hundred men. Whereupon he ordered his men and armour, which was gilded with gold, to be got ready against morning light, also all his friends and servants, together with as many as made up full two thousand men.



C H A P. III.

Of Earl Piercy's second Day's Sport; and
his Conduct on hearing of Douglas's
Approach.

THE earl of Northumberland relying
on his men's courage, who were
the best archers in England, was so far
from being daunted, that he ordered the
the tables to be spread again, and store of
wine in healths went round to the pro-
perity of their sport.

The sun no sooner gilded the horizon,
but the sport was renewed, and the woods
resounded with the pleasing noise. That
morning they killed the most stately hart
ever seen. Then the earl, turning to one
of his knights, said, The time draws near
that if earl Douglas keeps his word we
shall have another kind of sport. There-
fore let it be our care to keep our men
together; for man to man, I fear them
not against any nation under heaven; but
if I thought he would not come we would

remove to the next forest, for thither I perceive the deer fled.

He had no sooner utter these words, but Withrington came up to him, saying, My Lord, cause the dogs to be called off, and muster up your forces; for on the top of yonder hill I see Douglas coming towards you, with upwards of two thousand spearmen. I thank thee, replied the earl, and doubt not thy courage. — So Withrington, bowing, said, My Lord, I do not doubt so to behave myself, and your men this day, as to be remembered in the most distant ages.

Immediately the horns blew a retreat, the dogs were called off, and the archers mustered about their leader, who raised up their courage with the following oration:

My renowned countrymen, it was by your consent we passed over the Tweed for recreation, which is soon likely to be disturbed. Earl Douglas has sent me a challenge, and is going to give us battle, or make us fly over the Tweed. Pluck up your spirits, and consider that you are Englishmen, and that Piercy fights at the head of you; be courageous, and for the

I honour of our King, and the renown of
our country, gain a lasting fame, which
shall not die, but with time itself.

Having said thus much, they all shout-
ed, and immediately fell into order, some
opening their arrows, and others new-
stringing their bows, made of trusty steel.



CHAP. P.
heard of you; he comes on, and for the
or make us fly over the Tweed. Black
up your lances, and consider that you are
men, and that Percy fight at the

C H A P. IV.

Of the meeting of the two Earls; their Proposal to decide the quarrel in single Combat; with Withrington's Objection.

THE English archers, in number fifteen hundred, were no sooner in readiness, but earl Douglas appeared on the top of the hill, mounted on a milk white steed, and his men ranged in order behind him, with their glittering spears, whose number was just two thousand. Earl Piercy taking a staff in his hand, and a sword by his side, caused his men to move forward.—Earl Douglas, being within forty paces, demanded, Whose men they were, that durst presume to hunt in his forest, and to kill his deer? Whoever they were, they must expect to be severely punished; commanding them to yield immediately if they expected mercy.

The English Earl replied, It matters not whose men we are, but what we

have done we justify, and what deer we have killed we will carry away, or die upon the spot.

This, spoken with such courage, made Douglass something calmer.—O, said he, I know thee Earl Percy, thou art an Earl as well as I; therefore, if thou art as brave as fame reports thee, let thou and I decide it.

This offer pleased Percy, who drawing his sword, bid defiance to the challenger; and both were immediately ready to engage, had not Withrington thus addressed himself to Earl Percy: My Lord, heaven forbid that I and the rest of your servants should stand idle, while you are engaged: permit, therefore, my good Lord, that we all partake in the glory of the day.

Hereupon all the English shouted, and the engagement became general.

C H A P. V.

The Battle begun, and of it's obstinate and bloody Continuance. And the Death of the two Earls.

THE English archers on the left division immediately sent a flight of arrows, which laid sixty of the Scots dead, and the right division, letting fly on the flank of their battalion, gauled them most miserably. Earl Douglass seeing his men discouraged, ordered them to advance, and come to a close fight, whereby he imagine to make the English bows useless. But he was mistaken, for whenever the front opened, the archers plied the Scots with their arrows, while the others kept them in play with their swords, in-somuch that the ground was covered with their dead bodies.

And now earl Piercy being backed by divers Knights, like a tempest he broke in amongst them, with such fury, that

he laid heaps of dead before him, inso-
much that earl Douglas, who was fight-
ing on the other side, and signalized his
valour very much, was forced to come
and succour his broken forces, when the
two earls met like enraged lions; no ar-
mour was proof against their clear well-
tempered swords.—So that earl Douglas
beginning to faint, thus bespoke the earl
Piercy.

Noble Lord, you see your blood begins
to flow fast, and death you cannot escape,
if you contend with me any longer. I,
therefore, in pity to your life, would have
you yield yourself my prisoner; — you
shall be nobly used, and I'll prefer you to
my King.

To this earl Piercy replied, As for my
life, take you no care, but surely guard
your own. My honour I prefer before
any thing, and it never shall be said, that
Piercy yielded to Scot.

Whilst they paused a little, an arrow
coming from amongst the ranks of the
English archers, pierced the valiant Dou-
glas to the heart; who falling to the
ground, his last words were, Fight on,
my merry men, revenge my death, for I

am slain, and Lord Piercy lives to see my fall.

Earl Piercy mourned Earl Douglas's death, as one glorious hero ever does another.—But while he stood near the body, Sir Hugh Montgomery, a valiant Scotch Knight, let fly an arrow at him, which pierced his heart. Withrington, perceiving this, and from whence the fatal shaft came, immediately vowed revenge, and therefore coming to Montgomery, with one stroke of a broad sword ended his life. But himself did not long survive; for shortly after, a Scot with an arrow put an end to this gallant hero's life.

An
 d-Tydings to Earl Douglas came
 to kill and hear
 The chiefest of the
 three Summers Day to day
 His Pleasure to the
 a Vow to God did make
 The four Earl of Northumberland
 the Hunting of that Day
 The Child may the first be unborn
 Earl Percy took his Way
 To drive the Deer with Hound and Stag
 in Cress-Cross plain
 A world Hunting took there
 of Lives and Honor all
 Opprobrious and sad

Excellent OLD BALLAD



DESCRIBING

**The woeful Hunting Match on Cheviot
Hills, with the bloody Fight between
the Earls Piercy and Douglas.**

GOD prosper long our noble King,
or Lives and Safeties all:

**A woful Hunting once there did
in Chevy-Chase befall.**

**To drive the Deer with Hound and Horn,
Earl Piercy took his Way.**

**The Child may rue that is unborn
the Hunting of that Day.**

**The stout Earl of Northumberland
a Vow to God did make,**

**His Pleasures in the Scottisb Woods
three Summers Days to take;**

**The chiefeft Harts in Chevy-Chase
to kill and bear away.**

**The Tydings to Earl Douglas came
in Scotland, where he lay;**

Who sent *Earl Piercy* present Word,
 the would prevent his Sport.
 The *English Earl*, not fearing this,
 did to the Woods resort,
 With Fifteen Hundred Bowmen bold,
 all chosen Men of Might,
 Who knew full well, in Time of Need,
 to aim their Shafts aright.
 The gallant Greyhound swiftly run
 to chase the Fallow Deer,
 On *Monday* they began to hunt
 when Day light did appear.
 And long before high noon they had
 an hundred fat Bucks slain,
 Then having din'd the Drovers went
 to seek them again.
 The Bowmen must'rd on the Hills
 well able to endure.
 Their Back sides all with special Care,
 that Day were guarded sure.
 The hounds ran swiftly thro' the woods
 the nimble Deer to take,
 And with their Cries the Hills and Dales
 an Echo shrill did make.
 Lord *Piercy* to the Quarry went,
 to view the tender Deer.
 Quoth he, *Earl Douglas* promised
 this Day to meet me here:
 If that I thought he would not come;
 no longer would I stay.
 Then stept a brave young Gentleman,
 thus to the Earl did say:
 Lo! yonder loth *Earl Douglas* come,
 his Men in Armour bright;
 Full twenty hundred *Scottish* Spears,
 all marching in our Sight:

All Men of pleasant *Tiviotdale*,
 fast by he River *Tweed*.
 Then ceaset your Sport, *Earl Percy* said,
 and take your Bows with Speed:
 And now with me, my Countrymen,
 your Courage forth advance;
 For never was there Champion yet
 in *Scotland* or in *France*,
 That ever did on Horseback come,
 But if my Hap it were,
 I durst encounter Man for Man
 With him to break a Spear,



Douglas on a milk-white steed,
 Much like a Baron bold,
 Rode foremost of his Company,
 whose Armour shone like Gold.
 Shew me, said he, whose Men you be,
 hat hunt so boldly here;
 That without my Consent dare chase
 and kill my Fallow Deer.

The first that did the Answer make

was noble *Piercy* he,

Who said, we list not to declare,

or shew whole Men we be ;

Yet we will spend our dearest Blood,

the chiefest Harts to slay.

Then *Douglas* swore a solemn Oath,

and thus in Rage did say :

Before I will out braved be,

one of us two shall die :

I know thee well, an Earl thou art,

Lord *Piercy*, so am I.

But trust me, *Piercy*, I think it were

a great Offence to kill

Any of these our harmless Men,

for they have done no ill ;

Let thou and I the Battle try,

and set our Men aside.

Accurst be he, Lord *Piercy* said,

by whom this is deny'd.

Then stept a gallant Squire forth,

Wisherington was his Name,

Who said, I would not have it told

to *Henry* our King for Shame,

That e'er my Captain fought on Foot,

and I stood looking on :

You are two Earls, said *Wisherington*,

and I a Squire alone ;

I'll do the best, that do I may,

whilst I have Power to stand ;

Whilst I have Power to wield my Swor

I'll fight with Heart and Hand.

Our *English* Archers bent their Bow,

their Hearts were good and true ;

At the first Flight of Arrows sent,

full threescore Scots they slew.

To drive the Deer with Hound and Horn
 Earl Douglas had the Bent.

The Captains, mov'd with muckle Pride,
 their Spears to Shivers sent,

They clos'd full fast on every Side,
 no Slackness there was found ;

Whilst many a gallant Gentleman
 lay gasping on the Ground,

Oh, Christ ! it was a Grief to see,
 and likewise for to hear,

The Groans of Men lying in their Gore,
 and scatter'd here and there.

At last these two great Earls did meet,
 like Captains of great Might,

Like Lions mov'd, they laid on Loads,
 and made a bloody Fight ;

They fought until they both did sweat,
 with Swords of temper'd Steel,

Until the Blood, like Drops of Rain,
 they trickling down did feel,



Yield thee, Earl Percy, Douglas,
 in faith I will thee bring,

Where thou shalt high advanced be
 by James our Scottish King:

Thy Ransom I will freely give,
 and thus report of thee,
 Thou art the most courageous Knight
 that ever I did see.
 To the Earl Douglas, Piercy said,
 thy Proffers I do scorn;
 I will not yield to any Scote,
 that ever yet was born.
 With that there came an Arrow keen,
 out of an *Englishe* Bow,
 Which struck Earl Douglas to the Heart,
 a deep and deadly Blow;
 Who never spoke more Words than these,
 Fight on, my merry Men all;
 For why, my Life is at an End,
 Lord Piercy sees my Fall!
 Then, leaving Life, Earl Piercy took
 the dead Man by the Hand,
 And said, Earl Douglas, for thy Sake
 would I had lost my Land:
 O Christ I my very Heart doth bleed
 with Sorrow for thy Sake;
 For sure a more renowned Knight
 Mischance did never take.
 A Knight amongst the Scots there was,
 who saw Earl Douglas die,
 Who strait in Wrath did vow Revenge
 upon the Lord Piercy;
 Sir Hugh Montgomery was he call'd,
 who with a Spear most bright
 Well mounted on a gallant Steed
 rode fiercely thro' the Fight,
 And pass'd our *Englishe* Archers all
 without all Dread and Fear;
 And through Earl Piercy's Body then
 he thrust his hateful Spear;

With such a vehement Force and Might
 he did his Body gore,
 That the Spear went thro' the other Side
 a full Cloth-Yard and more;
 So thus did both these Nobles die,
 whose Courage none could flie.
 An *Englisk* Archer then perceived
 the noble Earl was slain;
 He had a Bow bent in his Hand,
 made of a trusty Tree;
 An Arrow of a Cloth-Yard long
 unto the Head drew he;
 Against Sir *Hugh Montgomery*
 aright his Shaft he let;
 The grey Goose Wing that was thereon
 in his Heart's Blood was wet.
 This Fight did last from Break of Day
 till Setting of the Sun;
 For when they rung the Evening Bell,
 the Battle scarce was done.
 With the Earl *Piercy* there were slain,
 Sir *John* of *Ogerton*,
 Sir *Robert Ratcliff*, and Sir *John*,
 Sir *James* that bold baron;
 With good Sir *John* and good Sir *James*
 both Knights of good Account,
 Good Sir *Ralph Rabbin* there was slain
 whose Prowess did surmount.
 For *Wibbrington* needs must I wail,
 as one in doleful Dumps;
 For when his Legs were smitten off,
 he fought upon his Stumps.
 And with Earl *Douglas* there were slain,
 Sir *Hugh Montgomery*,
 Sir *Charles Currel*, that from the Field
 one Foot would never flee.

Sir Charles Murrel of Ratchiff too,
 his Sister's Son was he;
 Sir David Lamb, so esteem'd,
 they saved could not be.
 And the Lord Maxwell in likewise
 did with Earl Douglas die.
 Of Twenty Hundred Scottish Spears,
 scarce Fifty-five did fly.
 Of Fifteen Hundred Englishmen
 went home but Fifty-three:
 The rest were slain in Chevy Chase,
 under the Green-wood Tree.
 Next Day did many Widows come,
 & their Husbands to bewail:
 They wash'd their Wounds in briny Tears,
 yet all would not prevail.
 Their Bodies, bath'd in purple Gore,
 with them they bore away,
 And kiss'd them dead a thousand Time
 when they were clad in Clay.
 The News was brought to Edinburgh,
 where Scotland's King did reign,
 That the Earl Douglas suddenly
 was with an Arrow slain.
 Oh, heavy News! King James did say,
 Scotland can Witness be,
 I have not any Captain more
 of such Account as he.
 Like Tidings to King Henry came,
 within as little Space,
 That Piercy of Northumberland
 was slain in Chevy-Chase.
 Then God be with him, said our King,
 fith 'twill no better be;
 I trust I have, within my Realm,
 Five hundred good as he

Yet shall not *Scott* nor *Scotland* say,
 but I will *Venceance* take,
 And be revenged on them all,
 for my Lord *Piercy's* Sake.
 This Vow the King full well perform'd
 after at at *Humble-Down*,
 Where fifty *Scottish* Earls were slain,
 with Men of great *Renown*,
 And of the rest, of small Account,
 did many *Thousands* die.
 Thus ended the Hunting of *Cherry Chase*,
 made by the Lord *Piercy*,
 God save the King, and bless the Land,
 in *Plenty*, *Joy*, and *Peace*:
 And grant henceforth, that foul *Debate*,
 'twixt *Noblemen* may cease.



THE END